

Diplopia (commonly termed ‘double vision’)

Diplopia, or double vision, is the subjective experience of seeing two images at the same time instead of one single view of the world around you. Generally single objects appear as double.

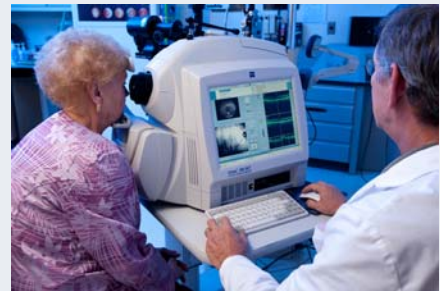
Diplopia can involve one eye, where the double image remains when the unaffected eye is closed; or both eyes, where closing either eye eliminates the double image.

Diplopia is a relatively uncommon condition and the incidence is low. It occurs mainly in adults where the visual system is mature.

The underlying cause of diplopia could be refractive error, disease or degeneration of eye tissues, systemic conditions, or head or face trauma.

Diplopia is a hazard to safe driving and a person experiencing the onset of diplopia should not drive until the condition has been assessed and satisfactorily resolved. Anyone with diplopia should consult an optometrist or ophthalmologist for a comprehensive eye exam as a first step.

Patching one eye may be required to help the person cope with normal activities while awaiting further intervention or other resolution.



Images courtesy of National Eye Institute, National Institutes of Health

